

The Office

As Lieutenant Governor of the State of California I am a statewide constitutional officer elected separately from the Governor. In this role I have many responsibilities granted under state law and still others provided by the Governor. As a result, as Lieutenant Governor, I am involved in some of the most integral areas of state government and areas of vital importance to Californians. Acting Governor

Under Article 5, Section 10 of the California State Constitution, any time that the Governor is absent from the state or is unable to perform the duties of office, the Lieutenant Governor assumes the full powers and responsibilities of the Chief Executive.

Given this responsibility, I have worked to reestablish a positive and productive relationship with the Governor. I meet regularly with the Governor and his staff to discuss issues and policies important to the state of California -career technical education, economic development, high speed rail, global climate change, disaster preparedness – and continue to work together with the Governor to bring about the necessary changes. President of the State Senate

Under Article 5, Section 9 of the California State Constitution, the Lieutenant Governor also is authorized to preside over the business of the State Senate. In the event of a tie, the Lieutenant Governor must cast the deciding vote.

Regent of the University of California and Trustee of the California State University System

The Lieutenant Governor sits on the UC Board of Regents and the CSU Board of Trustees. Together these two groups govern 10 UC and 23 CSU campuses, medical schools, national laboratories and research institutions, and numerous other public higher education programs and facilities.

As Lieutenant Governor I have been actively engaged with both the UC and CSU system. I have demanded transparency on executive compensation, opposed increases in student fees and tuition, and demanded a fair contract for CSU faculty.

In order to better understand the role that the educational system plays in preparing California's future workforce, I also started a "Listening Tour" Program. This program is a series of town hall meetings on the campuses of all 23 State Universities. These town hall meetings bring together leading academic, business, labor and community leaders to discuss workforce development and community needs; while also examining the strengths and weaknesses of California's education system at all levels in meeting the needs of the students and communities. So far, I have visited the campuses in Bakersfield, Fresno, San Bernardino, Hayward, Los Angeles, San Diego, Pomona and San Luis Obispo.

Chair of the Commission for Economic Development

The Lieutenant Governor oversees and directs the Commission for Economic Development. This organization is responsible for fostering economic growth in California. The Lieutenant Governor helps develop and implement strategies for attracting new business to the state, increasing state exports, creating new jobs, and stimulating industries statewide.

Currently, in my role as Lieutenant Governor, I am working with the Governor to revitalize the California Commission for Economic Development. As the chair, I am working to transform this important commission into a powerhouse for generating ideas that revitalize and enhance our economy, and to create opportunities for future growth, research, development and new markets. Under my leadership, the commission will develop policies that lead to a sustainable growth economy for California, moving forward our efforts to develop a rational energy policy that attacks the causes and effects of global warming. Moreover, the commission will focus on advancing workforce development in the state by looking at career technical education and better understanding the role of education in equipping the workers of the tomorrow in the new industries of tomorrow such as greentech, cleantech, and biotech. Chair of the State Lands Commission

The Lieutenant Governor is a member of the State Lands Commission. This three-member commission issues permits for, monitors and regulates all California state land holdings and navigable waterways. The Lieutenant Governor and the Controller serve as Chair in alternating years. The Lieutenant Governor began his term as Chair in 2007.

As Lieutenant Governor, I led the State Lands Commission to reject the proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal off the Oxnard/Malibu coast – because of the plan's deficiencies in protecting the environmental health of California's communities, the ocean and the shoreline; and because of the potential for this project to increase the creation of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. In this role I have also developed and introduced a proposal that will require developers of the Baja Pipeline to examine and be responsible for the mitigation of adverse emissions arising from that project. Member of the Ocean Protection Council

Through his position as Chair of the State Lands Commission, the Lieutenant Governor also may serve as a member of the Ocean Protection Council. This council is tasked with coordinating efforts to improve the protection and sound management of California's ocean and coastal resources.

On the Ocean Protection Council, as the Lieutenant Governor, I have championed a plan to greatly decrease pollution of California's beaches, especially from plastic refuse, which not only sullies the beaches, but has dangerous effects on marine life. I sponsored legislation known as the Pacific Protection Initiative, a flotilla of five marine debris bills to reduce ocean pollution. Member of the California Emergency Council

The Lieutenant Governor serves as a member of the California Emergency Council, which is briefed on all current matters and needs related to emergency preparedness and administrative matters requiring action by the Governor.

Following the tragic massacre at Virginia Tech University, in my role as a member of the Emergency Council I called for the establishment of an emergency warning system using the immediacy of cell phone technology. I met with major cell phone company representatives, the Governor's Office, and the California Public Utilities Commission, and they are well on their way to establishing this system within the next year. It will allow for notification of any person in harm's way in a specific geographic area by beaming a warning system from a cell phone tower in that area. Any cell phone within range of that tower will receive the warning.